

DELEGATE SCHLOEDER: Yes, that is my understanding of it. No question about it. I think, I assumed Mrs. Maurer's questions would be aimed at something that was different from that particular situation.

DELEGATE J. CLARK (presiding): The Chair recognizes Delegate Child.

DELEGATE CHILD: Delegate Schloeder, as I understand it, the county officials of every county, that is twenty-three counties of the State, were elected in 1966, is that correct?

DELEGATE SCHLOEDER: Yes, sir.

DELEGATE CHILD: They would be up for election or re-election in 1970.

DELEGATE SCHLOEDER: Yes, under the present Constitution.

DELEGATE CHILD: You propose to move that election ahead one year.

DELEGATE SCHLOEDER: No, we propose to move it back one year to 1971. There would be no election in 1969. County officials would be elected in 1971. These men ran for a four-year term. I do not think it would be fair to reduce their term. I think that adding a year onto the term in order to get this greater visibility, this greater citizen participation, would be something that would be beneficial.

DELEGATE CHILD: If they ran in 1966, would not the election for their successors be held in 1970, four years hence.

DELEGATE J. CLARK (presiding): Delegate Schloeder.

DELEGATE SCHLOEDER: They would be under the present Constitution but not under our proposal, our article.

DELEGATE CHILD: Under your proposal, their terms would have to be extended one year, would they not?

DELEGATE SCHLOEDER: Yes, sir.

DELEGATE J. CLARK (presiding): Delegate Child.

DELEGATE CHILD: Is your idea to bring the counties in line with Baltimore City?

DELEGATE J. CLARK (presiding): Delegate Schloeder.

DELEGATE SCHLOEDER: No, I would not phrase it exactly that way. I think that is the effect but there was no idea just to bring the counties into line with Baltimore

City. We just feel that having the county elections separate from the state elections provides for greater candidate and issue visibility and that we are going to get better candidates and a fuller debate and discussion of issues in this particular kind of election.

It is just, I think, incidental that Baltimore City has that sort of situation now. I would say in all defense of the Baltimore City system of elections that it has worked successfully. I think there is every indication that the City of Baltimore does not want to change.

But I do not want to give any feeling here that because we are attempting to bring the counties into line with Baltimore City, it is simply a matter of convenience. It is a matter of conviction. We believe this is the best way to have an elective process, to have it separate from the state and from the presidential elections.

DELEGATE J. CLARK (presiding): Delegate Child.

DELEGATE CHILD: Did your Committee trace the history of this section whereby it was changed in 1926, I believe.

DELEGATE SCHLOEDER: Yes, sir.

DELEGATE J. CLARK (presiding): Delegate Child.

DELEGATE CHILD: Before that time it was in the odd years, was it not?

DELEGATE J. CLARK (presiding): Delegate Schloeder.

DELEGATE SCHLOEDER: As I understand it, that is correct, sir.

DELEGATE J. CLARK (presiding): Delegate Child.

DELEGATE CHILD: So that what you propose to do now, is to go to all the trouble which in 1926 the people went to all the trouble to change; you propose to go to all the trouble to change it back. Is that right?

DELEGATE J. CLARK (presiding): Delegate Schloeder.

DELEGATE SCHLOEDER: I would not phrase it exactly that way, but I think, again, that what we are attempting to do is to provide for better visibility on issues and candidates, to lessen the coattail effect. If we sometimes have to step back to a pre- or mid-1920 tradition, I think we should be able to do that. I think the situation has changed now. It is a different